

VZCZCXRO6938
PP RUEHMR
DE RUEHMR #0053/01 0310602
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P R 310602Z JAN 06
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1845
INFO RUEHOR/AMEMBASSY GABORONE 0204
RUEHMR/AMEMBASSY MASERU 2097

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MASERU 000053

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/EPS - MARGARET DECQUIR; GABORONE FOR USAID/RCSA
PASS TO USAID/AFR/DP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [LT](#)

SUBJECT: FY 2006 CALL FOR AMBASSADOR'S SPECIAL HELP PROGRAM FUNDING
REQUESTS

REF: STATE 001255

11. SUMMARY: POST'S LONG-TERM GOALS IN LESOTHO PER THE FY 2006 MISSION PERFORMANCE PLAN REMAIN UNCHANGED AND ARE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND GLOBAL HEALTH. POST STRIVES TO LINK SSH REQUIREMENTS TO ABOVE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. SELF-HELP FUNDING STILL REMAINS IMPORTANT TO POST AND THE HOST COUNTRY. VARIOUS SSH ACTIVITIES FALL UNDER THE TWO LATTER CATEGORIES, VIZ, ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF GRASSROOTS COMMUNITIES AND BROAD SUPPORT TO THE HIV INFECTED AS WELL AS ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN (OVCS). AS OVERALL SUB-SAHARA REGIONAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE KEEPS DETERIORATING, LESOTHO'S IS NO EXCEPTION AND HIV/AIDS CONTINUES TO POSE A VERY GRAVE THREAT TO BASOTHO LIVELIHOODS. UNEMPLOYMENT AT APPROXIMATELY 45 PCT IS STILL RIFE AND SHOWS NO SIGN OF DWINDLING. SSH FUNDS ARE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN SUPPORTING POST'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS TOWARDS THESE GOALS DUE TO THEIR FLEXIBILITY THOUGH POST IS FULLY AWARE THAT THEY WOULD NEVER BE A "QUICK FIX" TO EXISTING PROBLEMS, END SUMMARY.

12. IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT POST REQUESTS FY 2006 FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF USD 150,000 FOR SSH ACTIVITIES IN LESOTHO. THE FOLLOWING ARE SSH PROJECT PROPOSALS THUS FAR REVIEWED AND DETERMINED WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION BY POST. POST STILL EXPECTS SEVERAL SUBMISSIONS BEFORE THE END OF MAY THIS YEAR AS IS THE NORM HERE.

13. PROJECT SUMMARIES OF PROSPECTS IN FY 2006 FOLLOW:

YOUTH FOR CHRIST LESOTHO - A MULTI-RACIAL, INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION WHOSE MAIN AIM IS TO DEVELOP YOUTH BY ENGAGING THEM IN PROGRAMS THAT MAKE THEM REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CHANGING LIFESTYLES FOR THE BETTER. THE YOUTH CENTER IS AIMED AT GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND KHUBETSOANA AREA A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN DO THEIR HOME WORK AND READ BOOKS WHEN THEY ARE NOT IN SCHOOL. GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED TO FINANCE BOOKSHELVES, PARTITIONING OF A HALL IN ORDER TO CREATE LIBRARY SPACE, AND WATER TANKS. ORGANIZATION SEEKS USD10,000.

RE MMOHO KATLEHISONG EA LESOTHO - AN ALREADY ACTIVE SEWING AND KNITTING CLUB OF (CURRENTLY) TWELVE WOMEN WHO SEEK TO EXPAND THEIR SERVICES AND BUY NEW MACHINES AND ACCESSORIES AS WELL AS OTHER BASIC REQUIREMENTS. AMOUNT SOUGHT IS USD4,000.

SEITHATI WEAVERS - A FOURTEEN MEMBER STRONG COOPERATIVE OF WOMEN WEAVERS WHO PRODUCE QUALITY TAPESTRIES, RUGS, SCARVES AND SHAWLS OF LOCALLY PURCHASED, 100% MOHAIR. THE GRANT MONEY WILL BE USED TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A WEBSITE FOR INTERNATIONAL MARKETING. THE ORGANIZATION SEEKS USD500.

THABA TSEKA ORPHANAGE OF HOPE - A CENTER THAT IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE SHELTER FOR ORPHANED AND ABANDONED CHILDREN IN SETIBING ALONG THE MOUNTAINOUS ROAD TO MOHALE DAM. THE SHELTER WILL BE

THE FIRST OF THE KIND IN THE AREA. GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED TO REFURBISH SLEEPING ROOMS, KITCHEN, A COMMON ROOM AND RECEPTION AREA, AND TO PURCHASE REQUIRED FURNITURE. THE ORGANIZATION SEEKS USD8,000.

ABIA HIGH SCHOOL - THIS IS A FIFTEEN CLASSROOM SCHOOL WITH AN ENROLLMENT OF 630 STUDENTS. THE FURNITURE CURRENTLY AT THE SCHOOL IS VERY OLD AND MUCH OF IT IS NO LONGER FUNCTIONAL. SCHOOL'S REQUEST IS SUPPORT FOR AT LEAST 150 DESKS FOR FOUR CLASSROOMS. GRANT FUNDS AMOUNTING TO USD8,500 WILL BE USED TO PAY FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF THE DESKS. THE FURNITURE WILL BE BUILT BY A LOCAL MANUFACTURER.

GETHSEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL - THE COMMUNITY AROUND THIS SCHOOL HAS CONSTRUCTED FOUR ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS TO ACCOMMODATE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF STUDENTS DUE TO FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION. THEY NEED ROOFING MATERIALS, WINDOWPANES AND DOORS TO COMPLETE THE STRUCTURE. THEY SEEK USD3,500. (IN LESOTHO, PRIMARY EDUCATION IS FREE IN THE SENSE THAT NO SCHOOL FEES ARE CHARGED, BUT COMMUNITIES ARE OFTEN IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO PROVIDE SCHOOL BUILDINGS).

BEREA HORTICULTURAL FARMERS' ASSOCIATION - A HORTICULTURAL PROJECT THAT PRODUCES FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR SALE AND CONSUMPTION BY ITS 4,000 BENEFICIARIES. THEY REQUEST SUPPORT TO PURCHASE IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT AMOUNTING TO USD6,000.

THUSANANG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - AN ASSOCIATION OF 45 MEMBERS WHO HAVE EMBARKED ON A BROILER AND LAYER PROJECT. THEY SEEK GRANT FUNDS AMOUNTING TO USD5,500 TO PURCHASE FEED FOR THE BIRDS.

MAMOHAU HOSPITAL - A CHURCH HOSPITAL SITUATED IN THE MOUNTAINOUS INTERIOR OF LESOTHO IN THE KATSE DAM AREA. THE HOSPITAL PROVIDES SERVICES TO A COMMUNITY SEVERELY AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS. THE HOSPITAL PLANS TO EXTEND AND EXPAND VCT SERVICES AND NEEDS TWO

MASERU 00000053 002 OF 003

COUNSELING ROOMS TO PERFORM EFFECTIVELY AND PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT. GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE BUILDING MATERIALS TO CONSTRUCT THE ROOMS. THEY ARE SEEKING USD8,000.

MATSOKU COOP/CREDIT UNION - A GROUP OF 42 MEN AND WOMEN ENGAGING IN VARIOUS INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES, E.G., WEAVING, SEWING, BROILERS, AND LAYERS. GRANT FUNDS AMOUNTING TO USD8,500 ARE SOUGHT TO PURCHASE WEAVING AND SEWING MACHINES, BROILERS AND LAYERS FOR THE COOPERATIVE.

PITSENG HIGH SCHOOL - SCHOOL HAS CONSTRUCTED WALLS AND ROOFING FOR A LIBRARY SERVING 466 STUDENTS WHO LIVE ON THE GROUNDS OF THE SCHOOL CAMPUS. THEY ARE SEEKING USD5,000 TO COMPLETE THE LIBRARY BUILDING BY PUTTING IN A CEILING AND ADDING WIRING AND LIGHTING.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH DAY CARE CENTER - THE PROJECT'S PURPOSE IS TO CARE FOR THE DESTITUTE AND THOSE ORPHANED BY HIV/AIDS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS DISTRICT OF MOKHOTLONG. GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED TO BUILD CLASSES, TOILETS, SPACE FOR SLEEPING, AN OFFICE, STOREROOM, KITCHEN AND PANTRY. THE ORGANIZATION SEEKS USD10,000.

LERATO HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP - THIS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS TAKES CARE OF A NUMBER OF HIV/AIDS INFECTED AND AFFECTED FAMILIES IN THEIR COMMUNITY. THEY WANT TO START A SEWING PROJECT THROUGH WHICH THEY WILL BE ABLE TO GENERATE INCOME TO ASSIST WITH OVCS' SUPPORT IN SCHOOL. THE GROUP SEEKS USD8,400.

CHOOKO PRIMARY SCHOOL - THIS SCHOOL IS SITUATED IN ONE OF THE MOST REMOTE AND MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS OF LESOTHO AND HAS AN ENROLMENT OF 374 STUDENTS, MOST OF WHOM DO NOT HAVE DESKS. MANY STUDENTS AT THIS SCHOOL SIT ON ROCKS IN THE CLASSROOM. SCHOOL REQUESTS FUNDING TO PURCHASE AT LEAST 50 DOUBLE DESKS AT A COST OF USD4,500.

SOAI PRIMARY SCHOOL - THIS SCHOOL IS IN A REMOTE AND MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF LESOTHO AND HAS AN ENROLMENT OF 780 STUDENTS. THE SCHOOL ALSO REACHES OUT TO OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH THROUGH AN

AFTER-SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP THAT FOCUSES ON LIFE SKILLS AND HIV/AIDS PREVENTION. THE SCHOOL SEEKS FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT A LIBRARY WHICH WILL BE USED BY BOTH THE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS. AN HIV/AIDS CORNER WILL BE SET UP IN THE LIBRARY. GRANT FUNDS SOUGHT AMOUNT TO USD2,500.

GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY - AMONG ITS STUDENTS ARE ORPHANS AND OTHER OVCS, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DISABLED CHILDREN AND THOSE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES. THE SCHOOL WANTS TO START A VEGETABLE GARDEN WHERE ALL STUDENTS WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH SKILLS IN SELF-RELIANCE AND FOOD SECURITY. BUSINESS SKILLS WILL ALSO BE TAUGHT, AS TEACHERS WILL GUIDE THEM IN HOW TO RUN THEIR GARDEN AS A BUSINESS. THE PROJECT WILL COMPLEMENT THE HOME ECONOMICS, PIGGERY, POULTRY AND FORESTRY PROJECTS ALREADY IN PLACE AT THE SCHOOL. GRANT FUNDS AMOUNTING TO USD1,500 WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE GARDEN TOOLS, A SECURITY FENCE AND SEEDS WITH WHICH TO START THE GARDEN.

RANKAKALA HIGH SCHOOL - THIS SCHOOL IS IN A VERY REMOTE AREA OF LESOTHO. MOST OF THE STUDENTS COME GREAT DISTANCES ON FOOT TO ATTEND THE SCHOOL. IN ORDER TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY WELL, THE SCHOOL WISHES TO CONSTRUCT A DORMITORY FOR GIRL STUDENTS. GRANT FUNDS AMOUNTING TO USD8,000 ARE BEING SOUGHT TO PURCHASE BUILDING MATERIALS AND TO PAY A CONTRACTOR.

TSEKA PRIMARY SCHOOL - THE SCHOOL MAINTAINS A VEGETABLE GARDEN

SIPDIS

AND PIGGERY IN SUPPORT OF ITS SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM. HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT HAVE FENCING AROUND ITS PREMISES AND ANIMALS FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE DESTROY THEIR VEGETABLE PATCH. THEY SEEK USD6,000 TO PURCHASE FENCING MATERIALS.

KHUBELU COMMUNITY SANITATION PROJECT - THE PROJECT PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE VENTILATED PIT LATRINES (VIPS) FOR THE KHUBELU COMMUNITY. HYGIENE WILL GREATLY BE IMPROVED FOR EVERY FAMILY TO HAVE ITS OWN LATRINE AND THE COST OF THE HOUSES WILL ALSO BE REDUCED AS OWNERS WILL NOT BE CHARGED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE TOILETS. CURRENTLY A LARGE PERCENT OF THESE LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS IS OUT OF WORK BECAUSE OF CLOSURE OF SOME FACTORIES IN THE LAST YEAR. FOR THIS, THE COMMUNITY REQUESTS GRANT FUNDS TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR CONSTRUCTION AMOUNTING TO USD10,000.

14. POST REITERATES THE NEED FOR MORE FUNDING FOR LESOTHO PER OUR MPP GOALS. GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF VIABLE PROJECTS USD125,000 SHOULD BE THE MINIMUM AMOUNT FOR THIS COUNTRY. PROGRAM HAS BEEN CRITICAL TO THE USG'S OVERALL ABILITY TO ADDRESS HIV/AIDS AND ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN (ESTIMATED AT 100-200,000). POST IS ALSO EXPECTING MORE APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER SSH FUNDING BETWEEN THE PRESENT AND MAY 2006. THE SSH PROGRAM REMAINS INSTRUMENTAL IN ASSISTING LARGE COMMUNITIES IN THE RURAL AREAS OF LESOTHO WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME BUT WITH

MASERU 00000053 003 OF 003

MEASURABLE IMPACT.
PERRY